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BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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CHICAGO, ILL.

JANUARY, 1914

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THE 1914 CONFERENCE

The City of Washington has been unanimously chosen by the Executive Board as the next meeting place of the Association, and the date, May 25-30.

Judging from the comments and opinions of various members from widely different sections of the country the decision is a popular one and will be generally welcomed. The Board had been of the impression that a middle-west meeting place should be selected, or at least that a point as far east as Washington should not be chosen in view of the 1913 meeting in that section. In order to ascertain the real feeling of the middle-west librarians a "straw vote" was taken. The secretary selected eighty representative members of the Association residing in the middle-west states and asked their preference, Washington in May or Mackinac Island the first week in July. The "returns" show Washington, 60; Mackinac Island, 23. This seemed to indicate clearly that the middle-west librarians and library assistants looked with much favor on Washington. The national capital will undoubtedly

be popular with the East and the South and the people from the far West will not mind another day's ride, for they are used to it, or else they can wait until 1915 in the hope that the Association then will come to their region.

Of course it will be impossible for all the delegates to be housed under one hospitality in Washington. Headquarters will be at the New Willard, the finest hotel in the capital, but accommodations can only be had there for about 200 members. The rates of the New Willard, however, will be inconveniently high to many. Across the street the New Ebbitts offers accommodations for 400 or 500 at a rate of \$3.00 a day and up, American plan. A large number of other hotels in the vicinity offer a wide range of service and prices. Library assistants will find room and board if desired as low as \$2.00 and \$2.50 per day. A rooming bureau will be established in Washington through which the members will be helped to secure the class of accommodations they desire. The Executive Board at its recent meeting passed a vote

restricting the services of the rooming bureau in securing reduced rates at the hotels to members of the Association, of the affiliated societies, and of their families. It has been found that a number of librarians availed themselves of the reduced rates at the hotels in time of conference without joining either the Association, or affiliated societies, and as there is a heavy expense to the Association in conducting a conference it seems only just and fair that those profiting should bear their share of the expense by joining the Association and paying the very reasonable membership fee.

The conference will begin on Monday and end on Saturday. The program committee, fully appreciating the many library and other educational features of Washington which should be visited, propose to have only four general sessions instead of the usual six, and the various sections and affiliated societies will be urged also to lighten their programs so as to give more free time to delegates. It is hoped that a small pamphlet will be compiled and distributed to all registering, enumerating the various libraries in the District, how to reach them, hours they are open, principal attractions of each, and how they may serve the librarians of the country at large.

A special effort will be made to have our Canadian members attend this Washington meeting in large numbers as a return visit to ours to their national capital in 1912.

The program committee are already engaged in the program. Its general tone and nature will of course be influenced by the fact of its presentation at the national capital and in proximity to the national library and the various departmental libraries which perform a more or less national service. The meetings will mostly be held in the New Willard hotel. Perhaps for some of the large general sessions other arrangements will be made. A number of pleasant social features are being tentatively planned. The local arrangements will be largely in the capable hands of Dr. Bowerman, the librarian of the Public Li-

brary of the District of Columbia and of course the advice and co-operation of Dr. Putnam will be at all times available and utilized. Post-conference plans have not yet been formulated, but something interesting, enjoyable and relaxing may be confidently expected from the resourceful and experienced chairman of the Travel committee.

Washington will be such a magnet that it is unnecessary to urge librarians to plan to attend this conference. It will undoubtedly be one of the largest in the history of the Association. It is hoped that each one who goes will carry home definite and clearer knowledge how his own community and his own library may be helped by the Library of Congress, by the office of the Superintendent of Documents, by the library of the Bureau of Education, the Department of Agriculture, and the other departmental systems. That will make our first Washington conference a success worthy of repetition in the future.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met at Hotel La Salle, Chicago, Wednesday evening, December 31, 1913. Present, President Anderson, H. C. Wellman, Gratia A. Countryman, C. W. Andrews, W. N. C. Carlton, T. W. Koch, H. W. Craver, Herbert Putnam.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. C. B. Roden, for the year ending December 31, 1913, was read in his absence by the Secretary. The report was as follows:

Report of the Treasurer

Jan.-Dec., 1913

Receipts

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Balance, Union Trust Company, Chicago, January 1, 1913..... | \$ 3,395.29 |
| Headquarters collections, Membership dues, etc..... | 6,737.60 |
| Trustees Endowment Fund, interest | 350.00 |
| Trustees Carnegie Fund, interest | 4,009.90 |
| A. L. A. Pub. Board, Installment on Headquarters expense..... | 2,000.00 |
| Estate of J. L. Whitney..... | 125.46 |
| Interest on bank balance, January-December | 74.55 |

\$16,692.80